

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-07 /086 W

-----230542Z 001514 /10

R 230432Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1239

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MASS, ID

SUBJECT: BRITISH ARMS EXHIBITION IN INDONESIA

1. A CIVILIAN-MANNED BRITISH ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY VESSEL, RFA LYNESS, VISITED JAKARTA MAY 6-12 TO EXHIBIT A FAIRLY EXTENSIVE ARRAY OF MODERN, CONVENTIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THE EXHIBITION, WHICH DISPLAYED THE WARES OF APPROXIMATELY 60 LEADING BRITISH FIRMS, WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS:

A. STATIC DISPLAY ON BOARD BESSEL: TYPES OF EQUIPMENT RANGED FROM COMPONENTS LIKE SPECIAL ROPES AND PROPELLERS TO MODERN RADAR/COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

B. AQUATIC DISPLAY: THE PERFORMANCE OF SMALL MARINE CRAFT AND OTHER NAVAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS DIVING GEAR WAS DEMONSTRATED IN THE HARBOR NEAR THE SHIP.

C. FIELD DEMONSTRATIONS ON SHORE: A CONVOY OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MILITARY VEHICLES PROCEEDED TO BATUDJADJAR NEAR BANDUNG ON MAY 9 WHERE THEIR OPERATORS

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DEMONSTRATED THE ACTUAL FIRE POWER AND MOBILITY OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF ARMORED CARS AND FIELD ARTILLERY PIECES.

2. ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH DEFENSE ATTACHE, THE RFA LYNESS HAD ALREADY VISITED EGYPT, THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND AND SINGAPORE BEFORE COMING TO INDONESIA. FOLLOWING THE VISIT HERE, THE RFA LYNESS SAILED FOR

MALAYSIA AND IS NOW PRESUMABLY ON ITS WAY BACK TO BRITAIN. JAPAN, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY ON THE RFA LYNESS' LIST OF COUNTRIES TO VISIT, HAD REPORTEDLY DENIED ENTRY TO THE LYNESS.

3. THE LYNESS VISIT ELICITED VERY LITTLE PRESS INTEREST AND NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. PRESS COVERAGE APPEARED CONFINED TO TWO OR THREE ARTICLES WHOSE INFORMATION WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON BRITISH EMBASSY PRESS RELEASES.

4. COMMENT: WE LEARNED FROM BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCES THAT LONDON HAD INSTRUCTED ITS DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN JAKARTA TO LIMIT INVITATIONS TO OBSERVE THE VARIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS ONLY TO THOSE DEFENSE ATTACHES REPRESENTING COUNTRIES THAT WERE NOT COMPETITORS OF THE BRITISH ARMS EXPORTERS. WITHOUT FIRSTHAND OBSERVATION, THEREFORE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE TYPES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT OFFERED TO THE INDONESIANS BY THE BRITISH. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, THE BRITISH DEFENSE ATTACHE WAS KEEN TO DOWNPLAY ANY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT AND TO EMPHASIZE ITS ROUTINE NATURE SAYING THAT IT HAD BEEN PLANNED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO.

NEWSOM

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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